



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Hiroshi AOKI *et al.*

Atty. Dkt. No. 086142/0452

Title: PASSENGER DISCRIMINATING
APPARATUS

Appl. No.: 09/778,861

Filed: February 8, 2001

Examiner: Faye M. FLEMING

Art Unit: 3616

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 19, 2002, please consider the following remarks.

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed July 19, 2002, has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. Claims 1-10 remain pending and are submitted for reconsideration.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No 6,371,513 (Fujimoto) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,074,583 (Fujita). The rejection should be withdrawn because neither of the references (alone or in combination) disclose, teach or suggest the claimed invention.

The PTO admits that Fujimoto does not include a means for discriminating the type of passenger on the seat. The PTO contends that Fujita discloses an airbag system that includes seat sensors that "discriminate the type of passenger on the seat such as an adult, a child, or a

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